

What is claimed is:

5 1. An Internet Portal, comprising:

an Internet-connected server; and

a portal software executing on the server, including a summary software agent;

wherein the Portal maintains a list of Internet destinations specific for a subscriber, and the summary software agent accesses the Internet destinations, retrieves information according to pre-programmed criteria, and summarizes the retrieved information for delivery to the subscriber.

2. The Portal of claim 1 further comprising a configuration and initiation interface for a subscriber to set up and start a summary search.

3. The Portal of claim 1 wherein the summary searches are configured for individual clients as templates stored and retrieved at the Internet-connected server.

4. The Portal of claim 1 wherein information retrieved in a summary search is stored to be retrieved by the subscriber.

5. The Portal of claim 1 wherein information retrieved in a summary search is downloaded immediately to the subscriber.

6. The Portal of claim 1 wherein autologins are performed for the subscriber at each Internet site according to a data stored for the subscriber at the Portal.

7. In an Internet Portal system, a method for providing summaries of information at WEB sites, URLs for which are maintained for individual subscribers, the method comprising steps of:

(a) configuring a summary software agent executable on the Portal to access the URLs;

(b) retrieving information from individual ones of the WEB sites accessed according to pre-programmed criteria specific to each subscriber; and

(c) providing the information to the subscriber.

8. The method of claim 7 further comprising a step for the subscriber to configure and initiate, via a configuration and initiation interface, a summary search.

9. The method of claim 7 wherein the summary searches are configured for individual clients as templates stored and retrieved at the Internet-connected server.

10. The method of claim 7 wherein information retrieved in a summary search is stored to be retrieved by the subscriber.

11. The method of claim 7 wherein information retrieved in a summary search is downloaded immediately to the subscriber.

12. The method of claim 7 wherein autologins are performed for the subscriber at each Internet site according to a data stored for the subscriber at the Portal.